

## **Important Notice for Healthcare Providers:**

From 31 March 2022 all healthcare providers in England must comply with the National Data Opt Out. Please note that compliance with the Opt Out has been postponed from original timelines due to COVID-19. Once your organisation is deemed compliant, the following should be applied:

- Data can still be entered into the NELA IT system while the patient is in hospital but the record should not be submitted (Locked) until after the patient has been discharged.
- For submitted (Locked) records, hospitals should only hit the submit (Lock) button if they have no knowledge of the patient opting out. Hospital teams should follow local policies to check whether or not a patient has opted out.
- Alongside this local process, the NELA team will also carry out a check for opted out patients at our end before the data is processed in any way. The NELA team will check for opt-outs using the Message Exchange for Social Care and Health (MESH) System. MESH is NHS Digital's secure messaging service. It supports two-way transfer of data between NHS Digital and health and care organisations. Data is fully encrypted during transit. Any patient cases found to have been opted out will be removed and deleted.

Please check with your Trust's Information Governance team for the local arrangements by which the screen should take place.

Guidance on the policy and how to comply with the policy is available here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out>. If you have any questions please refer to the link and let us know if there are any specific questions regarding NELA.